

Confirmed in Christ!

(video transcript)

By Karen Spiegelberg



[Karen] “Alright, that looks good. Now what kind of bow do you want to put on this one?”

[Guest] “Hm, this one.”

[Karen] “Alright. Wait a minute. Who are you anyway? What are you doing on this set?”

[Guest] “Mom...”

[Karen] “I’m Karen Spiegelberg.”

[Talia] “And I’m Talia Spiegelberg. Welcome to A WORD for Women—a show by women and for women where we build each other up in our amazing and wonderful God-given roles in life!”

[Karen] “I better be careful. I’m going to be out of a job here!”

[Karen] “We’re wrapping confirmation gifts today. Spring is the time many church bodies celebrate Christian confirmations. We may have one to plan...”

[Talia] “Like mine.”

[Karen] “Or we may have one to attend. But if there are no confirmations on your calendar this year then what is this episode have to do with you anyway? Everything, and for two reasons.

Thinking about confirmation gives us a chance to 1) recall our own confirmation, and 2) to recognize and encourage new confirmands.

[Part 1 *Recalling our own confirmation*] What do you think of when you recall your own confirmation? You’re confirmation passage? A new pretty dress? A family celebration?

Let’s start with your confirmation passage. I bet as I mention this you’re already rattling it off in your head. That passage was important to each of us as we stood before the congregation, and publically professed our faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and with God’s help we would stay the course. I heard a pastor once say, “Your confirmation passage is your Bible verse for life.”

What’s the confirmation passage you’ve chosen, Talia?

[Talia] “Hebrews 12 verses 1 and 2, ‘...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.’”

[Karen] “And what importance does that have for you, and your life going forward?”

[*Talia*] “Well since our family is a running family, I thought it would be cool to choose a passage that could relate to our everyday life. Because life is a race just like a cross-country race; around every corner is a new challenge. But if we fix our eyes on Jesus, we will run that race in a God-pleasing way.”

[*Karen*] “You know the Apostle Paul equates a person’s life to running a race. I think he mentions it nine times in his epistles I heard someone once say.

And you got a new dress for confirmation, right?”

[*Talia*] “Yep.”

[*Karen*] “Okay. It’s a special occasion for sure. And then unless you were an adult confirmand, you probably wore a white robe with your entire class—a white robe that signifies how we are washed clean in the righteousness of God. How about a party or celebration after your confirmation? Why is that important to you?

[*Talia*] “It’s nice to have family and friends there to share that special occasion with me and to know that I have encouragement going forward in my faith life.”

[*Part 2*] *Recognizing and encouraging new confirmands*

[*Karen*] “Oh that’s good! That gives me a good segue into part two of this episode: encouraging new confirmands in their faith life. Do you know that statistics tell us one in three newly confirmed young people will very quickly fall away from their faith. One in three! As women we play an important in building up and encouraging the young women in our congregations. If you have any events where women are involved in at your church include the young women who are of confirmation age or older. Remember at the time these young ones are confirmed, they’re members of your congregation. They’re not just kids anymore. And the more we engage or involve them early on the greater chance we have they’ll continue that connection with their faith and with their church. When you see any of these young women at your church say, “Hi!” ask about their life, drop little notes or cards of encouragement when you can. You’d probably like that, wouldn’t ‘cha?”

[*Talia*] “Yeah!”

[*Karen*] “And always keep them in your prayers. As we know confirmation isn’t the end just because our formal instruction is done. It’s just the beginning of a great journey ahead. So even if you don’t have a specific confirmation to attend this year, take the time to recall your own confirmation, and what it meant, and then encourage any other confirmands in your congregation. It’s a gift much more valuable than any gift we’re wrapping here today. Right, Talia?

[*Talia*] “Right..., but it still is fun to get gifts.”

[*Karen*] “Thank you for joining us on A WORD for Women.”

[*Talia*] “What is your confirmation passage, Mom?”

[*Karen*] “Revelation 2:10, ‘...Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.’”

[*Talia*] “And what did your confirmation dress look like?”

[*Karen*] “Well it was mostly orange and white.”

[*Talia*] “Orange???”

[*Karen*] “Well it was the early 70’s and it had these big puffy sleeves and ew...not good. Tsk, not good.

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